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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/528,558	03/21/2005	Massayoshi Yamashita	10517-269	6774
23838	7590	05/14/2007		
KENYON & KENYON LLP 1500 K STREET N.W. SUITE 700 WASHINGTON, DC 20005			EXAMINER COLLADO, CYNTHIA FRANCISCA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3618	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			05/14/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/528,558	Applicant(s) YAMASHITA, MASSAYOSHI	
	Examiner Cynthia F. Collado	Art Unit 3618	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 October 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 18-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 October 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/12/2006</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 18-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Riemer et al (US Patent No.5, 641,031).

Regarding **claim 18**, Riemer discloses a floor panel that separates an inside of a vehicle, which is a vehicle passenger room, from an outside of the vehicle (fig 5, element 15A), a fuel cell that generates electricity through a reaction of fuel gas and oxidation gas, wherein the fuel cell is disposed on the floor panel so as to be in the vehicle passenger room (fig 5, element 3).

Regarding **claim 19**, Riemer discloses wherein the fuel cell is disposed in a fuel cell recess portion of the floor panel (fig 5, element 3).

Regarding **claim 20**, Riemer discloses wherein the fuel cell recess portion is so formed as to be interposed between a pair of under floor reinforcements (fig 5, element 3).

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Regarding **claim 21**, Riemer discloses, further comprising a storage battery for storing electric energy, wherein the storage battery is disposed in the vehicle passenger room (fig 3, element 7).

Regarding **claims 22,26,28 and 30** Riemer discloses, wherein the fuel cell is so formed as to be higher than the storage battery (fig 5, elements 3 and 7).

Regarding **claim 23**, Riemer discloses wherein the storage battery is disposed in a storage battery recess portion of the floor panel (fig 5,element 7).

Regarding **claim 24**, Riemer discloses wherein the storage battery recess portion is disposed in a staged recess portion below front seats such that an upper face of the storage battery substantially coincides with a reference plane of the floor panel (fig 5, element 7).

Regarding **claim 25**, Riemer discloses wherein the fuel cell is disposed below the front seats (fig 5, element 3) and the storage battery is disposed at a position corresponding to feet of passengers seated in rear seats (fig 5, element 7).

Regarding **claim 27**, Riemer discloses wherein the fuel cell is disposed at a position corresponding to feet of passengers seated in rear seats and the storage battery is disposed below front seats (fig 5,element 7).

Regarding **claim 29**, Riemer discloses wherein the fuel cell and the storage battery are both disposed with their longitudinal directions being coincident with a lateral direction of the vehicle (fig 5, elements 7 and 3).

Regarding **claim 31**, Riemer discloses further comprising a fuel gas feed unit for supplying the fuel cell with fuel gas, wherein the fuel gas feed unit is disposed below the floor panel so as to be outside the vehicle passenger room (fig 5, element 1).

Regarding **claim 32**, Riemer discloses, wherein the fuel gas feed unit is disposed behind the rear seats (fig 5, element 1).

Regarding **claim 33**, Riemer discloses further comprising a motor for driving at least either front wheels or rear wheels, wherein electric power of at least one of the fuel cell and the storage battery is supplied to the motor (fig 5, element 6).

Regarding **claim 34**, Riemer discloses a fuel cell auxiliary constituting auxiliaries of the fuel cell, wherein the fuel cell auxiliaries are disposed in a vehicle front room (fig 5, element 3).

Regarding **claim 35**, Riemer discloses, a fuel cell auxiliaries constituting auxiliaries of the fuel cell, wherein the fuel cell auxiliaries are disposed around the fuel cell (fig 5, element 3).

Regarding **claim 36**, Riemer discloses a fuel cell auxiliary constituting auxiliaries of the fuel cell, wherein the fuel cell auxiliaries are disposed on or below the floor panel (fig 5, element 3).

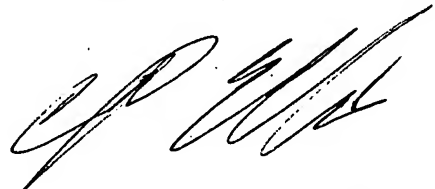
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cynthia F. Collado whose telephone number is (571)2728315. The examiner can normally be reached on mon-fri 8-4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Ellis can be reached on (571)2726914. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


CFC



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